

Execution of tele-communication works in the country

896. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of developmental work planned to be executed in telecommunications in the country particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) by when these works are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Under Bharat Nirman Programme 66,822 remaining eligible unconnected villages of the country including villages in Assam are to be provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in a time bound manner. This excludes those villages having population less than 100 and those affected with insurgency. 36,014 VPTs have been provided till October, 2006. In Assam, 7,431 VPTs have been provided till October, 2006 out of 8,931 number of uncovered villages. The remaining villages are likely to be provided with VPTs by November, 2007.

It is planned to provide 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in the country in villages with population exceeding 2,000 and without a Public Phone. 33,239 RCPs have been provided till October, 2006. In Assam, 1631 RCPs have been provided till October, 2006 out of the target of 1,913 RCPs. The remaining RCPs are likely to be provided by September, 2007.

During 2006-07 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited plans to expand its telecom network in Assam as detailed below:

(i) Addition in Telephone Exchange Equipment	112,000
(ii) Addition to Broadband connection Equipment	10,000
(iii) Net addition in Optical Fibre Cables (In Route Kilo Meters)	710
(iv) Net addition in Tax Capacity (In Kilo Circuits)	20
(v) Provision of Village Public telephones (In Numbers)	2,657